

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 27-29 are cancelled herein. Claims 1-3, 5-13, and 15-23 were previously cancelled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 14 and 24-26 are currently pending for consideration.

This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding.

Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

The Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the amendment does not alter the scope of the claims and places the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (M.P.E.P.) sets forth in Section 714.12 that “any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered.” Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that “the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified.” The M.P.E.P. further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 27-29 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY DENICOLA (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,666,538)

Claims 27-29 have been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 14, and 24-26 are allowed.

V. CONCLUSION

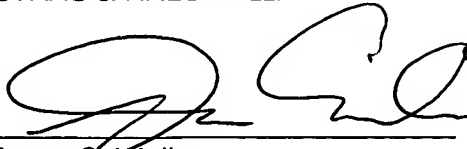
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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